

GILES ACADEMY

July 2021

Dear Year 4 & 5 students,

We hope that you are enjoying Term 5, just as we are too with all of our amazing students at Giles Academy!

I am writing to you as you will now be talking to your parents/carers and thinking about which school you will be choosing to start when you finish Primary School. Usually we would plan to have two exciting Open Evenings at Giles Academy in July and October to showcase our school to Year 4, 5 & 6 students. However, very sadly due to the current extraordinary circumstances we are unable to do this event in July. We fully expect to be able to offer a face-to-face Open Evening at Giles Academy in October though, where we very much look forward to meeting you.

Instead of the face-to-face Open Evening in July, you are able to view our website, which contains a lot of the key information you will need including the uniform requirements; term dates; what we teach; clubs; etc. Additionally, we encourage you to look at the presentation by myself the Executive Headteacher, Mrs Lucy Conley and some of the staff who will be here to support you in Year 7, as well as some comments from our students.

Our virtual Open Evening will be available on our website from 12 July, and we are busy setting this up ready to go live:

- <https://www.gilesacademy.co.uk>

I would also like to take the time to draw your attention to the fact that Giles Academy is now part of the South Lincolnshire Academies Trust (SLATrust). We have been working with the Giles Academy since 01 September 2020 because the school was graded as Inadequate and requiring special measures following an Ofsted inspection process in November 2019. I wanted to take the time to reassure you that this is not something that should worry you or your parents at all, as I am extremely pleased to be able to let you know the school transferred into our Trust as our third school and I can confirm that the future for Giles Academy will be a very successful and exciting one.

The multi academy trust that now leads Giles Academy was established in 2016 and has previously had two schools, being Bourne Academy and Spalding Academy, with all of the SLATrust Leaders being very experienced in improving secondary schools. This includes maintaining the ongoing high success at Bourne Academy and moving Spalding Academy, previously Sir John Gleed in Spalding from Inadequate to Good in June 2019, within only three years of being in the SLATrust.

Both of these schools are very successful. Although, due to the pandemic situation the all-important End of KS4 Progress measure is not a validated score, the high success of these schools can be judged against the 2019 data, which shows the End of Key Stage 4 Progress for Bourne Academy was +0.59 in 2019, which means that the school performs **well above the national average** and in the top 15% of all schools nationally and it is the top non-selective secondary school in Lincolnshire. Spalding Academy also moved from being one of the lowest performing schools nationally, to **in one year now performing consistently above national average**, with an End of Key Stage 4 Progress score of +0.21 in 2019, which places the school in the top 2 non-selective schools in Lincolnshire.

Both Bourne Academy and Spalding Academy significantly out-perform the vast majority of Lincolnshire Grammar Schools and this is my absolute expectation for Giles Academy from 2021 and beyond.

The reason that I am sharing this detailed information about our other schools, is that I want to make the credibility of the SLATrust Senior Leadership Team, Lead Teachers and Heads of Department clear. We have capacity to provide the leadership to improve Giles Academy, with our success built on a developed sophisticated model of highly successful behaviour; safeguarding; assessment; teaching and learning systems that can be applied to Giles Academy to support this school on its rapid improvement journey.

For my part, as the Executive Headteacher of the SLATrust, I have always seen this as being an incredible opportunity for Giles Academy to work in a partnership of three non-selective secondary schools in Lincolnshire, the current SLATrust schools are hugely successful and this is what I am confident we will see for Giles Academy too.

All young people deserve to go to a school which they are proud to attend and where they can achieve well and above the national average and it is my vision that Giles Academy will provide exceptional non-selective school education for our learners. We are all very proud of our school Giles Academy and with the SLATrust now leading this school, it will certainly become the school of choice in the local area. We can never guarantee a place for any student, but our advice in order to be offered a place, would be to put Giles Academy down as your first choice in the Autumn term.

We are proud of our curriculum and our ability to offer both GCSE and BTEC qualifications to ensure that every student has an opportunity to succeed whatever their learning style. You will find that Giles Academy is a very friendly and highly supportive school. We have some amazing teachers and a large number of highly skilled outstanding support staff. There is always someone to talk to if you have any worries or if you want to find out any information no matter what.

We strive to give our students the best facilities, which certainly can be found at Giles Academy. Additionally, we have been fortunate enough to already have improved the school site, which will include further significant investment from 2021. Future plans include refurbished sports facilities and to reintroduce the Sixth Form, with a new dedicated teaching block.

Our school now prides itself on small class sizes and lots of pastoral support ... the students say that Giles Academy has a family feel!

This will be a very, very exciting time to be at Giles Academy!

Both the staff and I very much hope that you will choose Giles Academy for the next step of your journey.

If you have any questions please email:

- openevening@gilesacademy.co.uk

Kind regards,



Mrs Lucy Conley
SLATrust Executive Headteacher